GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:434
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2001
SMUGGLING OF NARCOTICS AND ARMS BY ISI
P.R. KHUTE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smuggling of narcotics and arms by ISI on the Western frontier via Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu has a connection with the LTTE militant organisation of Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the factors responsible therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to constitute a special Task Force to control their activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to deal with this menace?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH.VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.434 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 17.04.2001.

(a)&(b): While there are reports of some incidents of smuggling of narcotics and arms on the Western border, there are no confirmed reports of ISI links with LTTE at present.

(c)to(e): In order to curb infiltration, smuggling and other anti-national activities from across the border, construction of border fencing and flood lighting was taken up and has since been completed in Punjab and Rajasthan. A project for erection of fencing and floodlighting has also been approved along the International border in Gujarat and Jammu & Kashmir Joint coastal patrolling is also being undertaken along the Western and Southern Coast to curb smuggling, infiltration and other anti-national activities.

Government is aware that ISI of Pakistan is involved in aiding, abetting and supporting terrorism in various parts of the country. In order to deal with the situation, Government have adopted a well-coordinated and multi-pronged approach for tackling the activities of ISI which includes strengthening the border management, galvanizing the intelligence machinery, neutralizing plans of ISI by well coordinated intelligence based operations, setting up of out-posts of security forces in vulnerable areas and modernization and upgradation of police and security forces with advanced sophisticated weapons and communication system etc.

Central Government has also been sensitising the State Governments about the threat perception and activities of ISI in the country. Periodic coordination meetings are also held with the State Governments for sharing the inputs from various quarters as well as for devising strategies to counter such activities. Various security agencies belonging to Union and States have been working together to check the situation.